emotions, he had lived and dreamed and thought in terms of the first office in the State.

He made himself not merely a national but even a world figure with an ease and a grace that betoken extraordinary qualities. No one could be long in his presence without feeling that he has the magnetic art of leadership.

He compels attention. The striking features, the rich tones of his vibrant voice, the quick sensitiveness, a certain wistful hunger for your sympathy, these are characteristics that mark him out for the front rank.

He has won his place by sheer personal power; and it is essential for opponents to realise that he holds it unchallenge-ably.. . .

A great political reception is an ordeal from which he shrinks. What he cares for is the bookish talk of a few inti-mates, men like John Morley, or Mr. Birrell; even more, perhaps, he loves the natural peace of the woods round .Chequers. „. .[4]

If MacDonald's supporters in Parliament bore with him while, unlike Professor Laski, strongly, and often vocally, disapproving of his behaviour, even a little awed by him, perhaps, like plain virgins complaining of wantonness, his opponents found him comforting. Since the French Revolution, the rich have lived in increasing fear of the poor. Every now and again this fear becomes intensified, as a man who knows he has an incurable disease will go for months feeling no more than a dull appre-hension, and then, when a particular symptom shows itself,

[4] Mr. Churchill's judgment of MacDonald at this time has worn a little,

but not much better than Professor Laski*s—'Urbane, cultured, incorruptible, he is willing to drive the car of Empire down every slope, social, military, political, so long as he can put on the brakes and be praised for his skill in applying them.*

Later, of course, Professor Laski*s opinion of MacDonald altered. Instead of regarding him as one who 'holds beliefs so deeply that it is difficult to persuade him to delegate their care to others, Mr. MacNeill Weir quotes him as remarking that 'there is no abandonment of principle he has not been, prepared to make/